

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 191035Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5154

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NOUAKCHOTT 0379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PFOR MR

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON MAURITANIA

REF: STATE 37591

1. DCM SHINN IS DESIGNATED MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR NOUAKCHOTT.

2. WE OFFER FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS ON HANDLING OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES:

A. EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO SEE THAT MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AND PARTICULARLY KEY ISSUES RAISED IN UNGA, WILL HENCEFORTH BE CONSIDERED ON YEAR-ROUND BASIS. TOO OFTEN IN PAST EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE BEFORE UNGA ONLY AFTER GIRM HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY OPPOSED OUR POSITION OR EVEN COSPONSORED HOSTILE RESOLUTION. ONCE MAURITANIAN POSITION HAS BEEN PUBLICLY STATED, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ALTER GIRM STANCE. IT IS IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT POSITION US EXPECTS TO TAKE IN UNGA ON SUCH ISSUES AS KOREA BE COMMUNICATED TO GIRM AS FAR IN ADVANCE OF GA AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AFFECT GIRM POLICY MAKING PROCESS AND IN ANY EVENT WELL BEFORE MAURITANIA PUBLICLY ANNOUNCES ITS STANCE. WE ALSO URGE THAT POSTS RECEIVE CURRENT ARGUMENTATION

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AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS GUAM

AND PUERTO RICO WELL IN ADVANCE.

B. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT PROCEDURES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN USUN OR DEPARTMENT FOR AUTOMATIC POUCHING ON CONTINUING BASIS OF KEY SPEECHES OPEN BY OR DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY UN OR OTHER DELEGATIONS/NHF OUR HOST GOVERNMENTNS. WHILE USUN DAILY SUMMARIES PROVIDE BROAD OUTLINES OF MAJOR PRESENTATIONS OR INTERVENTIONS, WE ARE AS GENERAL RULE IGNORANT OF SPECIFICS AND MORE SIGNIFICANTLY OF ATMOSPHERICS.

CASE IN POINT IS SPEECH BEFORE UNGA ON OCTOBER 1, 1975, BY MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OULD MOUUNASS. ALTHOUGH USUN CABLED BRIEF SUMMARY OF SPEECH, WE RECEIVED TEXT OF THIS ABRASIVE PRESENTATION EARLY IN 1976 AND ONLY AFTER WE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED COPY FROM COUNTRY DESK. WE RECOMMEND THAT PERSON BE DESIGNATED IN USUN WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING THAT TEXTS OF ALL KEY SPEECHES AND DOCUMENTS BE QUICKLY POUCHED TO RESPECTIVE POSTS.

C. IN CERTAIN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES SUCH AS MAURITANIA, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT BRIEFING MATERIAL DESTINED TO HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES BE TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH. FOR EXAMPLE, TWO YEARS AGO WE RECEIVED LARGE QUANTITY OF LOS BACKGROUND MATERIAL WHICH WAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS IN ENGLISH AND VIRTUALLY NONE OF IT WAS READ BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DUE TO LANGUAGE PROBLEM. EMBASSIES AS SMALL AS NOUAKCHOTT SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE TRANSLATING CAPABILITY TO HANDLE LARGE VOLUME. SINGLE TRANSLATION PREPARED IN U.S. FOR ALL FRENCH-SPEAKING POSTS WILL NOT ONLY REDUCE TOTAL TRANSLATING COST BUT INSURE PROFESSIONAL AND STANDARDIZED TRANSLATION.

3. FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 7 REFTEL:

A. MAURITANIA WILL BE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN OBTAINING MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BENEFITS, PARTICULARLY FINANCIAL, FROM MULTILATERAL BODIYA IN 1976. THIS APPLIES TO UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS WELL AS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS,

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I.E. COPPER WODUCERS AND IRON ORE PRODUCERS IN CASE OF MAURITANIA. WITH IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE, WHERE MAURITANIA HAS VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST, GIRM IS LESS INTERESTED IN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. IN PAST, GIRM HAS BEEN PERSUADED TO CO-SPONSOR RESOLUTIONS HOSTILE TO US INTERESTS, E.G. SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, SUCH ACTIONS FALL IN CATEGORY OF MAURITANIA'S "PRIMARY

MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES". MAURITANIA ATTENDS PRACTICALLY EVERY MEETING HELD BY REGIONAL, ECONOMIC AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH IT IS INVITED. IT NORMALLY SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN SAME ORGANIZATIONS BUT SELDOM PRESSES FOR LEADERSHIP ROLE.

B. UNTIL RECENT CONTRETEMPS WITH ALGERIA OVER WESTERN SAHARA, MAURITANIA FREQUENTLY TOOK CUE FROM ALGERIA WHEN VOTING IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. ALTHOUGH CLOSE LINKS WITH ALGERIA HAVE ENDED, MAURITANIA WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE CLOSELY TO ARAWULEAGUE POSITIONS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO IT AND OAU POSITIONS ON MATTERS OXECCONCERN TO IT. TO LESSER EXTENT, MAURITANIA WILL PACE ITSELF BY POSITIONS FAVORED IN GROUP OF 77, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. MAURITANIA HAS RARELY PUSHED DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS TO OUTRIGHT CONFRONTION WITH FELLOW MEMBERS OF ARAB AND AFRICAN CAUCUSES; ONLY RECENTLY AND THEN ONLY IN MODEST WAY HAS GIRM ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE OTHER COUNTRIES ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA AND MPLA/ANGOLA.

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MRN: 1976NOUAKC000379 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LOBBYING, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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